

Burnham-on-Crouch  
Urban District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1918.

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THOMAS D. WHITE,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

MALDON :

Richard Poole, 37 High Street.

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Burnham-on-Crouch Urban District Council.

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1918.

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**To the Members of the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban  
District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for 1918.

The total number of births for 1918 is 34, as against 46 for the preceding year. The total number of deaths is 45, as against 41 for 1917, influenza and its complications being deemed responsible for 7 civilian cases. I append a table of causes of death and vital statistics.

Causes of Death in Burnham-on-Crouch Urban  
District, 1918.—Civilians only.

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES .. ..			26	19
1	Influenza .. ..	..	3	1
2	Pulmonary tuberculosis .. ..	..	3	1
3	Other tuberculosis diseases .. ..	..		1
4	Cancer, malignant disease .. ..	..	1	5
5	Meningitis .. ..	..	1	
6	Organic heart disease .. ..	..	3	
7	Bronchitis .. ..	..	2	
8	Pneumonia (all forms) .. ..	..	3	
9	Cirrhosis of liver .. ..	..	1	
10	Nephritis and Bright's disease .. ..	..		1
11	Congenital debility .. ..	..		1
12	Violence, apart from suicide .. ..	..		1
13	Other defined diseases .. ..	..	9	8
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age .. ..				1
Total illegitimate .. ..				
TOTAL BIRTHS .. ..			18	16
Legitimate .. ..			17	14
Illegitimate .. ..			1	2
POPULATION { for Birth Rate .. ..			3016	
{ for Death Rate .. ..			2692	

Nett Death Rate .. ..	16·7
Pulmonary Tubercular Death Rate .. ..	1·4
Infant Mortality .. ..	22
Birth Rate .. ..	11·2
Percentage of Illegitimate Births .. ..	9·3

I also append a table of rainfall for the years 1917 and 1918, which I am able to produce through the kindness of Mr. E. Dilliway.

#### THE RAINFALL IN 1918.

The rainfall registered in Burnham during 1918 was 22·78 inches. It will be seen from the following comparison of the two years that this was practically the same as in 1917 :—

			1917		1918
January	...	...	1·41	...	3·04
February	...	...	·51	...	·61
March	...	...	1·67	...	·71
April	...	...	1·58	...	2·03
May	...	...	1·11	...	1·12
June	...	...	1·19	...	1·00
July	...	...	2·95	...	4·04
August	...	...	4·76	...	1·32
September	...	...	1·08	...	3·61
October	...	...	2·91	...	1·89
November	...	...	1·74	...	1·78
December	...	...	1·75	...	1·63
			<hr/>		<hr/>
			22·66		22·78
			<hr/>		<hr/>

Infectious diseases were notified as follows :—

Tuberculosis (all forms)	...	4
Measles and German Measles		30
Diphtheria	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	2

INFLUENZA. In the middle of October a serious epidemic showed itself and lasted till well into December. The disease is not notifiable but probably at least half the population were attacked more or less severely, and, as observed above, 7 cases terminated fatally. Acting upon instructions contained in the

circular from the L.G.B., dated 22nd October, 1918, I caused, through the medium of the Press, instructions to be issued to the public regarding measures to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease. Half the number of the severe cases I believe suffered from Epistaxis (bleeding of the nose), but none I am told severely.

HOUSING SCHEME. Ten houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation, and in several instances owners have been served with notices to put into a thorough state of repair other houses which were not in all respects conforming to the requirements of the L.G.B. It is proposed to build 30 new houses ; a site, abutting on Albert Road, of nearly 4 acres in extent has been arranged for, and now awaits L.G.B. sanction.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. The Health Visitor is the Parish Nurse who works under my supervision and reports to me weekly. I report to you half-yearly on her work which she carries out most satisfactorily ; (the scheme has the approval of the County M.O.H.) She makes from 15 to 25 visits weekly in this respect, and offers her services to many who decline them.

There are a few of the Military still left, possibly 100, but these are being demobilised gradually and will probably all be gone in 6 months time.

The Isolation Hospital is ready for the reception of infectious cases, about 20 beds being now available. The building has not been in use since March, 1912.

INDUSTRIES STARTED. A Jam and Pickle Factory has taken the place of the Government Canvas Works on the Quay.



The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, are regularly visited, and all possible precautions are taken to ensure a pure milk supply, and any suggestions offered by the various boards are willingly carried out.

FOOD. Considering the troublous times we have passed through, the food has been fairly good in quality and quantity. Though at times tough and tasteless, the quality and quantity are now showing signs of improvement.

WATER SUPPLY. This is good on the whole. An occasional breakdown in the machinery causes annoyance, but is easily rectified. The quality as tested by analysis at least yearly is very good.

I append a statement of work done by the Sanitary Inspector, and gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance that he has rendered to me on all occasions when I have sought his advice and help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF WORK done through the Sanitary Inspector in  
the Urban Sanitary District of Burnham-on-Crouch, during the  
year ending December 31st, 1918.

	Total No. for Year.
1 Complaints received .. ..	10
2 Nuisances detected without complaint ..	15
3 Nuisances abated .. ..	25
4 Nuisances remaining unbaated .. ..	—
5 Formal Notices served .. ..	4
6 Summonses taken out .. ..	—
7 Convictions obtained .. ..	—
8 Lodging-houses inspected .. ..	—
9 Slaughter-houses inspected .. ..	4 quarterly
10 Bakehouses inspected .. ..	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -yearly
11 Dairies and Milk Shops inspected .. ..	5 quarterly
12 Cowsheds inspected .. ..	5 quarterly
13 No. of samples of milk taken for examination for cleanliness, etc. .. ..	—
14 Filthy Houses cleansed, Sec. 46, P.H. Act, 1875	1
15 Houses disinfected .. ..	12
16 Cases of overcrowding abated .. ..	—
17 Houses erected or re-built for which Water “Certificates” were applied .. ..	—
18 “Certificates” granted .. ..	—
19 „ „ deferred .. ..	—
20 Public Wells, total No. in District .. ..	—
21 New Public Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded .. ..	—
22 Wells cleansed or repaired .. ..	—
23 Wells closed .. ..	—
24 Privies. No. in district .. ..	3
25 „ „ No. abolished during the year .. ..	—
26 Pail Closets. No. in District .. ..	38
27 Water Closets. No. in District without flushing cisterns .. ..	195
28 Water Closets, with flushing cisterns .. ..	484
29 Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water .. ..	—
30 Water cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ..	—
31 Animals improperly kept removed .. ..	—
32 Samples of water taken for analysis .. ..	—
33 Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding .. ..	—
34 Seizures of unsound meat, &c. .. ..	—

(Signed) J. COOK,  
Sanitary Inspector.